So... what's going on, Youko?
ペリッチ かれん
玄鉄絢

I'll have you know that I'm against this!
Have you been listening to me? Or can you not even tell?
HER CHEST, IN PARTICULAR, DOESN'T RESEMBLE YOURS.
Is this girl your mother or some-thing?

Youko said she wants to have this girl stay here.
What's the problem?
Here you are
I don't see much of an issue. She's not going to cause problems if somebody sees her here.
There are a whole bunch of problems! We're still an official corporation.
There's no telling when the police will start looking into her whereabouts. It would be hard on her to be placed into a health facility for a long period of time.

If she's the one who saved your life as you say, you should have more info on exactly who she is!
That's precisely the issue here!
Yeah, I guess.
It's not like you two are strangers, either.
At any rate, this place is Youko-san's castle. We don't have any right to criticize her decisions.
I told you, I don't know anything.

It houses the NPO Corporation, which I created to help me live for tomorrow after I dropped out of high school.

This place is my castle.

This girl who's full of complaints is named Tokiko. She was the very first one to join me. She was hailed as a child prodigy up through middle school, ultimately advancing to a prestigious local high school on her way to university. However, she was unable to keep up, and dropped out during her first year. She's bright and reliable, but it is unfortunate that she's a little difficult to deal with. She handles all aspects of this business as the assistant director.

Even so, I'm against taking in someone who doesn't even know their own personal history!

It's a gathering place for other failures like me, who want to put at least some effort towards living.

There are six of us here. Though, truthfully, we needed to have 10 members in order to be recognized as a corporation. I used the names of relatives I practically never saw to fulfill that requirement.

Tomoko went to the same high school as I did. She has a weak constitution and was frequently in and out of the hospital. Even when she attended school she only sat in the infirmary, and came to be known as its master. Still, after repeating the same grade three times she was able to graduate and expressed interest in coming here after I reached out to her. She currently has more passion than anyone when it comes to work. She's the most normal and upright adult among us. She's the only one here who has a license to drive a car, so we treasure her as our driver.

Don't worry about it. Let's believe in Youko-san's judgment.

In contrast to her, this unmotivated short girl is Shiho. She repeatedly tried and failed to commit suicide. On the day she vowed to finally end her life, Tomoko happened to be driving the car that she jumped out in front of. In the end, an accident was avoided and she was brought here under observation. She may have awakened thanks to Tomoko's lectures, and she'll do any work that Tomoko asks her to. She's our youngest member.

This is Yae. Despite not being fond of bathing, she's extra sensitive to the odors of others. She ran away from home and used to spend her nights wandering from cafe to cafe. Tokiko just happened to come across her after she collapsed out of hunger, after which she was brought here and became a member. It's surprising they formed a connection that way, but Tokiko does find her annoying.

This is Junko-san. She worked in an office for two years, but slept with a superior in order to advance her career. After this was discovered, contrary to her expectations, she was placed in a dead end position. Unable to cope with all the gossip and pressure to resign at work, she resolved to throw herself in front of a train. I happened to be at the train station she went to and noticed her fading away into darkness on a bench. After leaving her job, she became unable to pay her rent and ended up living here. I never see her do anything else but lie in bed. However, she is a grown adult with experience out in society, so we keep her around in case her experience might be useful to us.

It was Tomoko's idea to transform the concept of her going to the infirmary every day into a corporation. But I'm no teacher, and we can't do anything that resembles a school's activities here. Instead we hold seminars, give each other counseling, and work hard enough to stay out of the red. Those activities and killing time here is our current occupation.
Honestly, it's not like you're my pet.
And so the six of us are able to earn some money and continue on without collapsing.
... I don't know.
Eh!? How long has it been since you last washed yourself?
Come ON! Get your hands away!
OW! THAT STINGS!
Nope.
I don't.
... Do you really not remember me?
It doesn't look like she's faking it.
Okay...

.....
But... there's no mistaking her physical appearance.
Hey,
would you mind?
?
Hmm?
!

What is it, what is it?
Hm? What happened?
uwa aaaa aaah!
THAT LADY KISSED ME!
!
!?
YOUKO!?
No, listen! I thought she might remember something if I kissed her!
What are you talking about!? This isn't some fairy tale!
You took advantage! You assaulted her!
Youko-san... I never thought you were the type to go down such an inhumane path.
I'm telling you, that's not what it was!

To be continued

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